
US Perfins Used in Shanghai, China

Bob Szymanski (LM-145)

Several years ago I had the fortune to come across and be able to purchase a cover (Fig. 1) of a Dupont perfin D131 that was used in Shanghai, China. Presumably, Dupont had an office in this city and I knew that this would make an interesting addition to the next A&C pages as additional usage information.

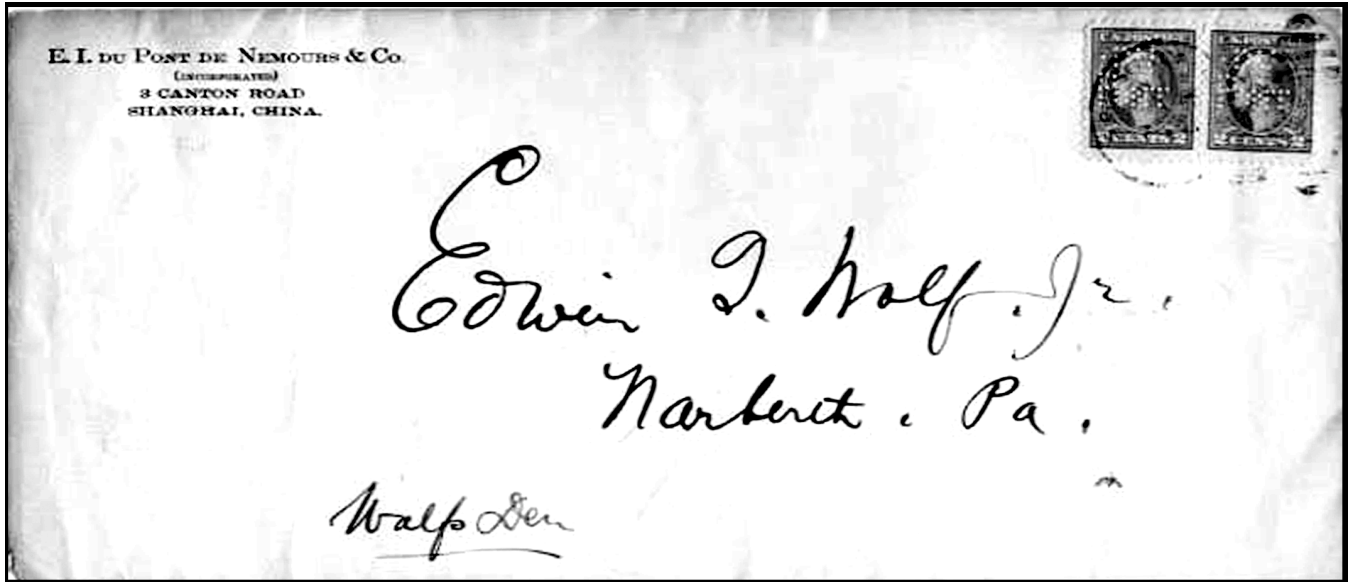


Fig. 1 Two 2¢ red perfined (D131) Washingtons franking a cover from the DuPont offices in Shanghai, China to a Pennsylvania address

In speaking with Rudy Roy, (yes, Rudy and I did speak occasionally as President and Vice-President!) this cover came up in the conversation and I was astounded at the fact that Rudy had two covers and a cover front (figs. 2, 3 & 4) with the very same usage in his possession! Naturally, should anyone else have one, please see how it fits into the following scenario and let me know if anything can be added to this article.

Whenever US Postal Agency usage in Shanghai is discussed, what immediately comes to mind is the "Shanghai" overprinted Washington-Franklins that were in use between July 1, 1919 and December 31, 1922. Note that these are not the stamps on these covers that are perfined but rather these are the normal Washington-Franklins without surcharge. Overprinted stamps were on sale to those with Chinese currency. But could other, non-overprinted stamps be purchased concurrently by those buying postage with US currency? The overprinted values ceased being used because of the wild currency

fluctuation of one US Dollar to two Chinese dollars at this time.

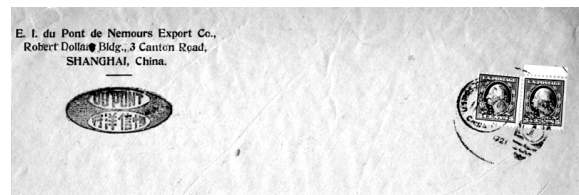


Fig 2. Type XIII postmark dated December 10, 1921. Front only of Dupont business envelope, has 10 cent postage paying 5 times the rate. Perfins stamps cancelled by Agency duplex with numeral "1" in killer. Wording inside circle not legible, cannot determine if "SIRVICE" variation exists on this handstamp

All four Shanghai covers are in the time period when the overprinted stamps were in use. Also, common to all four covers are the return addresses listing the Dupont Company - one at 1 Canton Road and three at 3 Canton Road.

The faint cancel in Fig. 1 is readable "...S POS SERVICE / July 25 / 7PM / 1922" on the two two-cent Washingtons that would pay the double rate to the US.

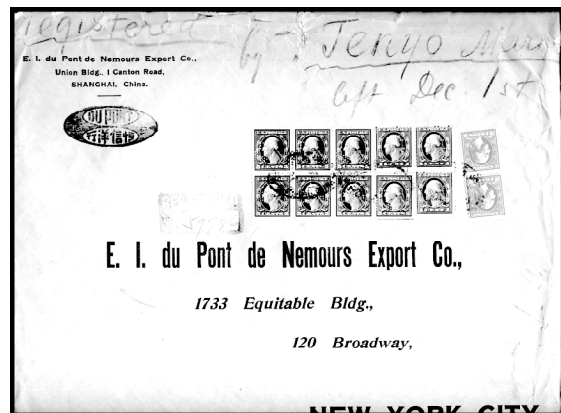


Fig 3. Registered oversize (10 x 12.5) linen envelope dated December 1, 1921. All but the two 2-cent stamps have Dupont perfins. Canceled by Type 3 registry ovals. the writing in red crayon refers to the ship "Tenyo Maru" and apparently it carried this cover. This cover is backstamped with a Shanghai violet double circle and NY Registry markings of arrival dated January 2, 1922.

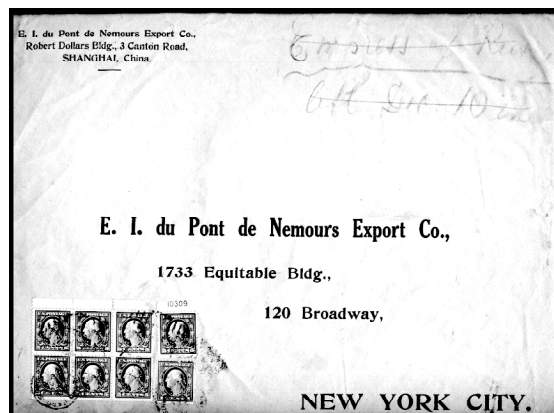


Fig. 4 large sized (10 x 12.5) envelope with seven 5c perf 11 WFs (1 plate no. single and block of 6) plus 1c, paying 18 times the regular rate, tied by Shanghai cds dated December 10?? Red crayon refers to the ship "Empress of Russia" which probably carried this cover. This cover is backstamped in purple "Received in bad condition NYPO Wall Street Sta", but has no receiving date.

Maybe one of our readers can enlighten us as to whether any of these stamps could have been purchased in China or whether all were perfined in Philadelphia and sent to China for use back to the US.

This is an interesting era and I have shown the four covers known to Rudy Roy and myself. Surely, the next A&C pages will have additional information listing a Shanghai, China use for D131. We look forward to any additional information on this subject from our members.